

Miami Dade County
Asian American Advisory Board
111 NW. First Street, suite 1034
Miami, FL 33128

MONTHLY BOARD MEETING

October 1, 2013

(meeting date was moved up to avoid conflict with TECO Dinner)

MINUTES

Present: Adam Tavakoly, (Chair); Reza D’Jehanshahi; Dr. Nasser Eftekhari; Sadrul Fasihi; Josephine Gordy; Nidal Hozein; Barnaby Min, Esq.; Shabbir Motorwala; Dr. Parapas Pitayapesuit; Victor Swaroop; Adrienne Thompson; Mehmet Ulutas; Nick Vicera; Manny Wong; Dr. Jim Yu; and Mohammad Shakir, Director.

Excused: Melissa Braynon; Tohfa Eminova; Nazy Given; Joseph Johnson; Meital Stavinsky; and Ali Taqi.

Guests: Reinaldo Valdes; Sharda Singh; Abby Behrouz; Liang Jon Chang; Esther Shatkarn; Paul Ohannessian; Massoud Moghani; Steven Weir; Kathleen Cymbaluk; and Ex. Director Rene Diaz.

Chair welcomed the guests and asked them to introduce themselves. Several potential Board candidates attended the meeting.

Minutes: Barnaby Min, Esq. made the motion to approve September minutes, Josephine Gordy seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved [15-0].

Director’s Report:

The Director reported that the Scholarship Committee met September 24 and assigned tasks to various members and staff to move forward. The assignments included the award breakdowns, letters drafted to different people or groups, and reaching out to Dade County School Board to solicit its support in searching for qualified candidates. He also reported arranging an appointment for the scholarship committee with Dr. Feldman, member, Dade County School Board. He also mentioned meeting with Mr. Ortiz, Director Miami Museum of History and asked if the Board is interested in establishing an Asian-American History section at the museum which would require the set up of a committee. He described attending Confucius Day celebration that the Board should consider formally co-sponsoring.

Old Business:

Scholarship Committee: Reza D’Jahanshahi explained that letters are being sent to past sponsors for financial support. He said board members can bring in support first by donating themselves, secondly, by reaching out to their circle of people in the community. **APA Committee** informed that it met last month. Dr. Yu and Adrienne Thompson are in discussions as co-chairs and would call a planning committee meeting soon. **Membership Committee:** Mr. Vicera said he has new candidates who are here to

introduce themselves. He asked Mr. Liang Jon Chang; Mr. Paul Ohannissian; Ms. Esther Shankarn; and Ms. Sharda Singh to introduce themselves.

Miscellaneous: Mr. Vicera reminded the Board about the support for his Sport League. Director reminded Mr. Vicera that he was to send a narrative describing the sports league. Mr. Vicera indicated he would. Mr. Vicera also raised the issue concerning a family of Filipino Americans that were killed after a police chase by the City of Opa-Locka. Mr. Vicera made a motion, seconded by Adrienne Thompson, to send a letter to the City of Opa-Locka urging them to conclude their investigation of the matter. The motion passed unanimously. Mr. Min agreed to draft the letter on behalf of the Board and asked Mr. Vicera to provide him details. Then Mr. Vicera asked what Board has done for the community? It led to some intense discussion as to what the Board is supposed to do for the community

New Business: Community Appreciation Dinner: It was tentatively decided that it will take place in April 2014 and the theme would be Iran. Mr. Tavakoly proposed a committee to include Messrs. D’Jhahanshahi, Khosravi, Wong, and Dr. Eftekahri.

Announcements:

- SAHARA Fundraising event, October 26, 2013
- Next Board meeting November 12, 2013
- Meeting with Dr. Larry Feldman, School Board.
- Next Board meeting November 12, 2013

Adjournment: 8:15 p.m. Meeting adjourned